

Wednesday, September 26, 2012
Manchester/ Nashua Regional Communications Consultant Pre Bid Meeting
Start time: 10:00 a.m.
End time: 10:35 a.m.

Attendees:

William Mansfield- Nashua

Brian Sherman- Nashua

Mary Sanchez- Purchasing (Nashua)

Kathy Breslin-Nashua

Assistant Chief Nicholas Campasano- Manchester Fire Department

Superintendent Jody Rivard- Manchester Fire Department

13 Vendors (See attached list)

Below is a list of questions and answers that were discussed at the pre-bid meeting. The questions and answers are not verbatim from the meeting. If you request further clarification please feel free to include your questions by the deadline of October 10th at 10:00 am. Any questions received after this time will not be entertained.

Mary Sanchez quickly reviewed the important dates in the Request for Proposal and Bill Mansfield gave a brief overview of the proposal prior to the floor being opened for questions from the vendors.

Question:

Is there currently radio coverage between the two cities?

No, currently they are two separate independent systems.

Question:

Does either Nashua or Manchester currently have additional users or affiliations?

No, but both cities have Gateways in place.

Question:

Describe your vision going forward.

Currently the two systems are separate and are the only two trunked 800 MHz systems in the state of NH. In the immediate future we would like the two cities to be able to communicate. In the distant future we would like the new system to be a model for the rest of the state, where one day we could have a regional dispatch system to tie communities together and possibly have regional dispatch centers in place.

Question:

Is the current system voice only?

Nashua- currently has an 9 voice channels and one channel for data. It is Nashuas goal to turn the data channel into an additional voice channel

Manchester- currently no data, just all digital

Additionally, Nashua has a 98-99% in building coverage there are problems with some dead spots in basements but no buildings with zero coverage. The basement coverage issue has been addressed with placing Futurecom vehicle repeaters in Fire Engines. There are bi directional amplifiers at both high schools and the Pheasant Lane Mall.

Manchester has 92-96% coverage, but has weak spots and dead spots ,some within buildings, and within the City. They have building with a site amplifier being installed at this time. They would like to have 100% coverage in the City and surrounding towns.

Question:

Is there an ordinance in the Cities regarding BDA's?

Nashua- No

Manchester- In the rules it is mentioned that Amplified Antennas may be required within some buildings.

Question:

Would you like to add site locations? And do you have any parcels of land within the cities that are available to use or is leasing possible?

Manchester- Yes, they want to add sites, but there are parcels of land available in the southern section of the town, And in the northern.

Nashua- The City doesn't see a need to add additional sites

Question:

When do you anticipate a contract being offered?

After the first of the year.

Question:

What is the timeline between the Phases?

It is anticipated to be a month and a half between Phase I and Phase II and after Phase two there would have be negotiations held. We are looking at a quick and accurate turn around.

Question:

Can two teams work simultaneously in both cities? And who are the contacts?

Yes and the contacts would be Bill Mansfield or Brian Sherman for Nashua and Superintendant Jody Rivard for Manchester. The contact for the entire project would be Bill Mansfield.

Question:

On page 13 of the Request for Proposal it mentions Appendix A- Bidder Profile Questionnaire where can that be found?

It will be provided to the vendors along with the questions from today's meeting. (See attached)

Question:

Is there an equipment procurement budget?

No, not at this time. This is to be a road map to get funding for the implementation.

Question:

What is the anticipated life cycle of the RFP and do you anticipate any stoppages?

We anticipate a rapid movement between Phase I and Phase II, but the will be a stoppage after Phase II before Phase III to review the detail design and to inform the cities. No anticipated time table on how long.

Question:

Is there any estimate on how much money there is available to spend on Phase I, II, and III?

There is although the Cities are not willing to share this information

Question:

Do you plan on running parallel systems during the implementation?

Both systems are currently at the end of their lives. It is the short term plan to keep the old systems up and running until the new system is in place. There are no finances available for a backup system, just to phase the old system into the new system. We would like to be up and running within a half year of the contract being granted.

Question:

On page 7 of the Request for Proposal it states under High-Level Objectives in the section, Assessment of Current Infrastructure it states to assess the mitigation strategies for component and service obsolescence, what is to be expected?

Both systems are at the end of life. It's to review what is obsolete in our current systems and look at what options are available to keep our system running while we proceed with the migration process.

Question:

Are there backup sites in the City?

Nashua currently has no backup site, The System is a three site simulcast system
Manchester there is a backup site, the Elliott Hospital with 5 channels on a singular trunk system.

Question:

Will we, the vendors, be provided the list of questions that were asked today?

Yes along with any questions that may come in after today's meeting.

Question:

Who is the best person to contact and how?

On page 3 of the Request for Proposal, William Mansfield, and the best method is email.
mansfieldw@nashuapd.com